energy prices have to reflect world energy prices. This is accepted for oil but it is also relevant for coal. In that context, Deputy Chairman mentioned that domestic coal prices also have to be "aligned" with international prices. He also mentioned that these issues would be thoroughly examined by the Committee on Integrated Energy Policy.

(c) The Ministry is of the view that in order to realize the intrinsic value of coal, and to encourage more optimal use of a scarce resource, there is a need to evolve a more credible system of price discovery, based on market forces.

Non-payment of compensation by MCL

138. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. had issued notification in 1979 to acquire land at Padmabatipur in Angul district for mining of coal and did not pay any compensation to the owners of land during the last 26 years even though the land remained virtually under its control;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said company had violated the provisions of Relief and Rehabilitation Scheme in other cases as well in grant of compensation and jobs for livelihood; and

(c) if so, the details of such violations with the action plan of company to help affected families by way of grant of adequate compensation and jobs as per rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Notification under section 4(1) of Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 was issued by Central Government on 7th November, 1979 for an area of 595.690 hectares of land in Ananta Bereni Block which covers Padmabati village also. Compensation for the land was paid to the land holders of village Padmabatipur in July, 2005. The holders are still continuing their possession over the land and enjoying benefits like cultivation, dwelling etc. even after payment of compensation to them. Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the land losers are under process.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Land losers are not evicted from their land or house until and unless they are paid full compensation and extended all Resettlement and Rehabilitation benefits as per norms.

Illegal mining and black marketing of coal

139. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KB. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal worth Rs. 300 crores is mined and blackmarketed every year in Jharkhand and West Bengal;

(b) what action has been taken/initiated to curb such illegal mining of coal in these States or elsewhere; and

(c) whether Government would set-up an enquiry into the alleged involvement of officials in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As far as Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries are concerned, there is no report about coal worth Rs. 300 crore being mined and blackmarketed every year in Jharkhand and West Bengal. However, illegal mining is carried out clandestinely and stealthily by the miscreants mostly outside the leasehold area of CIL. Some instances of illegal mining are also reported from Eastern Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Central Coalfields Limited in their leasehold areas. Following steps have been taken/initiated to curb illegal mining of coal in these States:

(i) Dozing off rat holes created by illegal mining and filling up with stone and debris wherever possible.

(ii) Digging trenches to isolate the illegal mining sites.

(iii) Creating concrete walls on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

(iv) Fencing of various illegal mining sites along with display of sign boards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place."